

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 CU-02 NIC-01 SY-05

SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /076 W

----- 098351

O 091034Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1984

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1279

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL PRESS ATTACKED IN SETUBAL

REF: LISBON 1275 (NOTAL)

1. DEATHS RESULTING FROM BREAKUP OF DEMONSTRATION AGAINST MAR 7
POPULAR DEMOCRAT'S (PPD) RALLY IN SETUBAL (REFTEL) LED TO
DEMONSTRATION AGAINST POLICE ON AFTERNOON OF MAR 8. SETUBAL POLICE
STATION WAS SURROUNDED BY DEMONSTRATORS UNTIL EARLY EVENING
ARRIVAL OF COPCON FORCES, WHO BROUGHT POLICE OUT OF
STATION USING ARMORED CARS. IDENTITY OF DEMONSTRATORS IS NOT
CLEAR. COMMUNISTS (PCP) AND REVOLUTIONARY BRIGADES (PRP-BR) HAVE
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DENIED INVOLVEMENT.

2. GOP ANNOUNCED BAN ON MAR 8 DEMONSTRATION BUT MADE NO ATTEMPT TO PREVENT DEMONSTRATORS FROM GATHERING. SO FAR, ONLY ONE DEATH HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED IN PRESS AND RADIO.

3. FOLLOWING BREAKUP OF CROWD AROUND POLICE STATION, FOUR REPORTERS FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESS, INCLUDING MARTHA DE LA CAL, A STRINGER FOR TIME; PETER COLLIS, DE LA CAL'S HUSBAND AND FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER; CHRISTOPHER REED OF MANCHESTER GUARDIAN; AND HELEN GIBSON OF UPI AND CHICAGO DAILY NEWS BECAME THE OBJECT OF THE ATTENTION OF ELEMENTS WITHIN CROWD WHO ACCUSED REPORTERS OF BEING CIA AGENTS. REPORTERS THEN WENT TO NEARBY CAFE IN ORDER TO TELEPHONE THEIR STORIES. DEMONSTRATORS PURSUED REPORTERS INTO CAFE, DEMANDED TO SEE THEIR PRESS CARDS, REMOVED TAPE FROM GIBSONS RECORDER, ROUGHED UP COLLIS, AND SEVERELY BEAT REED. DE LA CAL MANAGED TO GET OUT AND SUMMON AIDE FROM POLICE AND COPCON. SECURITY FORCES EVENTUALLY ARRIVED AND TOOK REPORTERS TO POLICE STATION AND ARMY HEADQUARTERS. REED WAS INITIALLY TAKEN TO SETUBAL HOSPITAL AND IS NOW IN LISBON HOSPITAL WITH CONCUSSION.

4. EMBOFF HAS TALKED WITH DE LA CAL, GIBSON, AND COLLIS. THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE PARTY AFFILIATION, IF ANY, OF THEIR ASSAILANTS BUT HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT POPULAR SOCIALIST FRONT (FSP) AND PRP-BR WERE INVOLVED. THEY THOUGHT THAT AT LEAST SOME OF PARTICIPANTS WERE UNIVERISTY STUDENTS, AND NOTED THAT ATTACKERS SEEMED KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TEMPORARY PRESS CARD AND A PERMANENT CARD. COLLIS THINKS HE RECOGNIZED ONE OF ATTACKERS AS SAME PERSON WHO HAD ABUSED HIM DURING ANARCHIST DEMONSTRATION LAST WEEK.

5. REPORTERS ARE UNABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE IT, BUT THEY HAVE FEELING THAT ATTACK ON THEM WAS NOT MERE HAPPENSTANCE AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN TARGETED EARLIER BY ELEMENTS AMONG DEMONSTRATORS.

6. AMBASSADOR INTENDS INVITE REPORTERS INVOLVED TO MEET WITH HIM TODAY TO DISCUSS INCIDENT.

7. THERE IS EVIDENCE FROM NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF EARLIER INCIDENTS JUST AFTER PPD RALLY WAS BROKEN UP THAT THE
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MILITARY ATTEMPTED TO DISSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE POLICE, PARTICULARLY THE KILLINGS. ALTHOUGH ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT COUNCIL OF 20 MET MAR 8, EXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS INCIDENT WAS NOT FORTHCOMING.

8. COMMENT: UNWILLINGNESS OR INCAPABILITY OF GOP TO PREVENT OR CONTROL DEMONSTRATIONS OF THIS NATURE IS FRIGHTENING DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND HAS ALREADY SEVERELY REDUCED ABILITY OF

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTY (CDS) TO CAMPAIGN EFFECTIVELY.
PPD'S CAMPAIGN EFFECTIVENESS WILL ALSO BE SEVERELY REDUCED IF
THEY CAN NOT COUNT ON PROTECTION.

9. LEFTIST PARTIES AND THE LEFTIST WING OF THE ARMED FORCES
MOVEMENT WILL BE ABLE TO USE THESE INCIDENTS TO JUSTIFY
POSTPONEMENT OR CANCELLATION OF ELECTIONS. ATTACK ON FOREIGN
JOURNALISTS AND THREE DEATHS WILL ADD A NOTORIETY TO THESE
EVENTS THAT WILL MAKE THE LEFTS ANTI-ELECTION DESIGNS EASIER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PARTY MEETINGS, POLITICAL PARTIES, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON01279
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750082-0983
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750368/aaaacjmp.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 1275
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL PRESS ATTACKED IN SETUBAL
TAGS: PINT, PO, PPD, PCP, PRP, CDS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006